- 10. The airspring of claim 1 wherein the bumper contact surface is radially inward, relative to a radial center of the airspring (1), of the secured ends of the elastomeric sleeve (14) secured by the retainer (26) having the integral bumper-contact surface (52).
- 11. An airspring (10) comprising a flexible cylindrical sleeve (14) secured at opposing ends, and first and second retainers (12, 26), the sleeve being secured at a first end to one of the retainers (12 or 26), and at the opposing end to other retainer (26 or 12), the improvement being characterized by:

one of the retainers (26) having an integrally formed bumper-contact surface (52) within the sleeve (14) for axial movement into the sleeve (14), for contact with the other retainer (12), and for absorbing and transmitting forces generated from such contact, the retainer comprising two concentrically disposed ribs connected by radially extending ribs.

- 12. An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 11 wherein the retainer has more than two concentrically disposed ribs.
- 13. An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 11 wherein the retainer (26) having an integral bumper-contact surface (52) is defined by a first axially outer surface (52) which extends into the airspring sleeve (14) and a second axially outer surface (50) which extends into the airspring sleeve (14), the axially outermost of the two surfaces being the bumper-contact surface (52) and the axial difference between the two surfaces being greater than zero to separate the two surfaces by a dimension (b).
- 14. (Amended) An airspring (10) in accordance with claim 5 wherein the retainer (26) having an integral bumper-contact surface (52) has an axial height (H) as measured from the axially outer most surface (52) to the axially innermost surface, and the surface-separation dimension (b) is 20 to 80% of the retainer height (H).
- 15. The airspring of claim 11 wherein the bumper-contact surface (52) is radially inward, relative to a radial center of the airspring (1), of the secured ends of the elastomeric sleeve (14) secured by the retainer (26) having the integral bumper-contact surface (52).



Corrected Copy Showing Amendments

Claims

1. (Amended) An airspring (10) comprising a flexible cylindrical sleeve (14) secured at opposing ends, and first and second retainers (12, 26), the sleeve being secured at a first end to one of the retainers (12 or 26), and at the opposing end to other retainer (26 or 12), the improvement being characterized by:

one of the retainers (26) having an integrally formed bumper-contact surface (52) within the sleeve (14) for axial movement into the sleeve (14), for contact with the other retainer (12), and for absorbing and transmitting forces generated from such contact, the bumper contact surface (52) being centrally located on the surface of the retainer (26) which extends into the sleeve (14) during axial movement into the sleeve (14).